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REVITALISATION FOR EVERYBODY? THE LANDSCAPE PARK DUISBURG-NORTH

Otto M., Chmielewska M. **Rewitalizacja dla wszystkich? Park Krajobrazowy Duisburg Północ.** Park Krajobrazowy Duisburg Północ jest jednym z najbardziej znanych projektów rewitalizacyjnych w Zagłębiu Ruhry. Jego realizacja rozpoczęła się w 1985 roku na terenie dawnej huty żelaza. Unikatowy charakter tego obiektu jest wynikiem połączenia pełnionych przez niego funkcji: z jednej strony jest to reprezentacyjne dla regionu Ruhry miejsce organizacji różnego rodzaju imprez oraz atrakcja turystyczna, z drugiej zaś strony park służy codziennej aktywności rekreacyjnej lokalnej społeczności. Możliwość uprawiania w jednym miejscu sportu, rekreacji, kultury i turystyki zdaje się być udanym połączeniem, a różne funkcje parku nie zakłócają się wzajemnie. W przeciwieństwie do Parku Krajobrazowego Duisburg Północ, który łączy (przynajmniej przestrzennie) ludzi o różnych zainteresowaniach niezależnie od statusu społecznego, inne duże projekty rewitalizacyjne w Zagłębiu Ruhry, zwłaszcza obiekty rozrywkowe i rekreacyjne, jak kryte stoki narciarskie lub parki rozrywki, często są bardzo drogie i przez to niedostępne dla wszystkich, co z kolei może intensyfikować trendy polaryzacji społecznej.

Отто М., Хмелевска М. **Ревитализация для всех? Ландшафтный парк Дуйсбург Север.** Ландшафтный парк Дуйсбург Север является одним из наиболее известных ревитализационных проектов Рурского бассейна. Его реализация начата в 1985 году на месте старой металлургической фабрики. Уникальность объекта является результатом интегрирования им двух функций: с одной стороны, как репрезентативного для Рура места проведения различных мероприятий, а также туристической достопримечательности, с другой – как места активного отдыха местных жителей. Возможность сочетания в одном месте спорта, отдыха, культуры и туризма представляется весьма удачным решением, причем разные функции парка не противоречат друг другу. В отличие от Ландшафтного парка Дуйсбург Север, который объединяет людей с разными интересами независимо от их общественного статуса, иные крупные проекты, реализуемые в Рурском бассейне, в частности, объекты развлечения и рекреации (как например, крытые лыжные трассы или луна-парки), часто весьма дороги и по этой причине доступны не для всех. Это может способствовать усилению тренда поляризации общества.

Keywords: polarization of society, revitalisation, Landscape Park Duisburg-North, Ruhr Area

Abstract

The development of the Landscape Park Duisburg-North started in 1985 when the former ironworks were shut down. Since then the Park has turned into one of the most famous revitalisation projects in the Ruhr area. Its unique character springs both from its representational function as a postmodern (event) location within the Ruhr area and from its characteristic of attracting various groups in their daily leisure activities. The combination of sports, recreation, culture and tourism is apparently successful and the different functions of the park do not disturb each other. While the Landscape Park connects people with different interests, at least spatially, other large projects of the leisure and

recreation sector in the Ruhr area, like indoor ski slopes or amusement parks, are often very expensive and can intensify urban trends of polarization.

INTRODUCTION

The Ruhr area with its 5.3 million inhabitants is today known as a postmodern place for leisure and culture. Where there were once ironworks and coal mines, today amusement parks, shopping paradises and hiking paths dominate the landscape. When coal, iron and steel were recedingly demanded and the employment rate within the coal and steel industries declined, both the economical structure

and urban planning within the region were subjected to processes of re-orientation. Investments into education and research were helped along by the federal government and the EU, further investments into the retail sector, the health care industry and the recreational sector were effected in order to expedite the transition to a region which is focussed on service industries. Within the last 25 years the Ruhr area has undergone significant changes. The formerly disused industry sites were converted into locations for recreation, culture and shopping. The historical heritage which was previously seen as a burden turned into an executing carrier of structural change. Nowadays industrial heritage is attracting visitors to the Ruhr area, numerous industrial plants which document the development of the region can be visited. Slowly also the outer perception of the region is changing which is now clearly and more strongly determined by the festivalization of the cities and the interregional catchment area of the numerous postmodern facilities for leisure activities. From the perspective of urban and social geography questions need to be raised in how far these major projects within the leisure sector, which more often than not create a supply of higher pricing ranges, contribute to a fragmentation of the city and its respective society. Due to an increasing polarisation of society and the growing percentage of poorer households, processes of exclusion, which were formerly limited to the housing market, can also be reinforced in facilities like indoor ski centers and amusement parks. This article will introduce the "Landscape Park Duisburg-North" as a major revitalisation project in the Ruhr area of which the multifunctional character stands out. Today concerts, sports events and company festivities take place in this preserved industrial plant. Simultaneously the reutilized site has developed into an everyday leisure space which gets along entirely without entrance fees, obligations for consumption or temporal restrictions.

FROM GERMAN COAL DISTRICT TO POSTMODERN LEISURE SPACE – THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE RUHR AREA FROM THE BEGINNING OF INDUSTRIALISATION UNTIL TODAY

The beginnings of the industrial history in the Ruhr area can be traced back to the 14th century when coal was exploited on the surface for the first time. The first vertical shafts were already utilised in the 15th century. In 1738 coal mining was put under

state funding. About fifty years later already 900 small mines existed in the Ruhr area. Initially coal was especially important and mainly used for domestic fuel, but in the 18th century many forges changed their energy sources. They switched from wood to coal which increased the demand for this raw material (HOPPE et al., 2010; *Regionalverband Ruhr*, 2006). The actual Industrial Revolution and the mass production of iron followed in the 19th century with the introduction of the steam engine. This allowed for the drainage of ground water and made it possible to gain access to deeper layers with more productive coal which was more suitable for the coking process (*Regionalverband Ruhr*, 2006). The most important prerequisite for this was the smelting process based on coke which enabled mass production of iron in the first place. Coal production sextupled between 1850 and 1870. In 1900 it amounted to 60 million tons (HOPPE et al., 2010). The first steel on the basis of coal was produced in the Ruhr area in 1826. Hence, an industrial landscape developed in the Ruhr area which consisted of coking plants, steelworks, ironworks, employee housing districts and factories. The consumption of land increased and simultaneously a rapid growth of population occurred. Between 1850 and 1925 alone, population increased from 400,000 to 3,800,000 (*Regionalverband Ruhr*, 2006).

After World War II the Ruhr area was still contributing to the economic miracle in Germany, the largest production quantity was reached with 151 million tons of coal in 1956. At that time 590,000 employees worked in the mining industry. At the same time, however, this peak of industrial production constituted the beginning of the crisis in the Ruhr area (FAUST, 1999). The growing usage of oil led to a dual substitution of coal. For one thing coal was substituted as an energy carrier and secondly those plastic products made from oil constituted a competition for iron and steel. Furthermore, innovations in transportation led to decreasing transport costs, so that the import of coal and later on also of iron and steel made domestic production unprofitable. In times of globalisation, coal from the Ruhr area was no longer competitive (FARRENKOPF, 2009). Even though the production output between 1957 and 1973 decreased merely by 20 per cent, productivity increased perceptibly which effectuated a 60 per cent loss of employment (FAUST, 1999). In the course of the 1970s also the iron and steel industry were affected by a crisis. Competition for steel production came from Eastern bloc countries and threshold countries. Furthermore aluminium and plastics products approached the market rapidly (HOPPE

et al., 2010). In 1976 only 35 of 148 mines remained and the employment rate sank dramatically to 150,000 miners (*Regionalverband Ruhr*, 2006). In 1968 the “Ruhrkohle AG” was founded in order to counteract the crisis by centrally managing the remaining mining companies and to make deindustrialization more socially acceptable. Later on, coal from the Ruhr area was even subsidised because the costs of its production tripled or quadrupled the rates for imported coal since the 1980s (BOLDT, GELHAR, 2008).

Structural change

“From an industry district to a region specialised on the service sector” became the new strategy for the economic re-orientation of the Ruhr area. Indeed, numbers of employment in the tertiary industry had exceeded those in the producing sector since the beginning of the 1980s. Nevertheless, also the secondary sector has developed new emphasises, especially in the fields of automotive, mechanical engineering and chemical industry (BUTZEN, TIGGEMANN, 2009). The transition towards a service society particularly entailed expansions of the sectors research and development and education. Three major universities in Bochum, Dortmund and Duisburg/Essen were founded in 1965 (HOPPE et al., 2010). Simultaneously the healthcare, transport and retail sectors were promoted. Especially the retail and the leisure sectors have turned into an important carrier of structural change, but also contributed to a changing perception of the Ruhr area. Nowadays the Ruhr area is a space of postmodern recreation. Not solely the “Centro” in Oberhausen as an urban entertainment center with shopping mall, event halls, museums, sports facilities and amusement center should be listed here – even though this project sticks out in terms of modern recreational facilities due to its mere size and an impressive figure of 23 million visitors per year. Multiplex cinemas, musical theatre, adventure pools, amusement parks and indoor ski centers suddenly sprang up like mushrooms. This did not only remedy the deficient recreational infrastructure in the Ruhr area but it also created a supply of modern leisure facilities which considerably exceeded the borders of the Ruhr area’s usual catchment area. The creation of these artificial worlds of leisure and culture is closely connected to the fact that numerous disused industrial sites, which are located near the city center, became accessible as a consequence of both deindustrialisation and the shutdown of numerous companies (REUBER, KRAJEWSKI, 2009). Initially the remaining disused industrial sites were considered a burden

for urban development. From the 1980s onwards, however, these large quantities of disused areas were increasingly regarded as chances for development. Parts of them were then converted into museums or it was ensured that the new utilisations were combined with the old industrial sites. In the course of these revitalisation processes the historical heritage was more and more valued for its chances in terms of both urban development and the tourism sector (WEHLING, 2009). One of the largest contributions to the revitalisation of disused sites but also to the modernisation of districts characterised largely by their industrial value was provided by the “IBA Emscher Park.” This major project of the Ruhr area ran from 1989 to 1999 and implemented around 120 projects with a total amount of investment of about 5 billion Deutsche Mark (GANSER, 2001; HOMMEL, 1998). As part of the IBA project, working-class districts were renovated, industrial sites converted into (both indoor and open air) museums and urban infrastructures renewed. The IBA, however, was also supposed to provide impulses for questions regarding social integration and for the cultural consciousness in the Ruhr area (FAUST, 1999; WEHLING, 2006). A wide range of recreational and cultural facilities was created which effectively implemented the historical-industrial heritage as sites of contemporary value, be it in form of a museum or as an object used for recreational purposes. Converted facilities were those formerly used for production (blast furnaces, shaft towers, gasometers) as well as coal tips. The most renowned project is the “Zeche Zollverein” in Essen with 800,000 visitors per year (REUBER, KRAJEWSKI, 2009). It quickly became obvious that the revitalised industrial monuments had touristic potential which is why the next task was to reasonably connect the existing individual projects and to market them as a whole. For this purpose the “Industrial Heritage Trail” was established. It is comprised of signposted roads with a total of 25 anchor points and 16 panoramas or else scenic views. Furthermore 13 villages form part of the route (ROMMELSPACHER, BUDDE, 2007). If nothing else, these revitalisation projects and their embedding into marketing concepts have led to a completely modified perception of the industrial landscape. “Nowadays the culturally connoted heritage of the Industrial Age is considered a location factor. Facilities of industrial culture increasingly trigger touristic interests.” (ROMMELSPACHER, BUDDE, 2007) Industrial heritage is the key word which now steers the planning of events and marketing strategies. An industrial tourism has developed which makes a living from the reali-

zation that by now industrial history does not repel but attract, and which profits from the fact that former sites of production have turned into stages of festivalisation due to their (industrial) charm (cf. BOLDT, GELHAR, 2008). The industrial region has become a postmodern place for leisure and culture which deploys its specific characteristics purposefully (WEHLING, 2009). The “Extraschicht” for instance has established itself as a regional event, with more than 200,000 visitors who attended the individual activities in 2012. Coal, steel and even the “Currywurst” (= sausage in curry sauce) are embraced as stereotypes and consciously staged instead of replacing them. “The new” is to complement “the old” but should not be used to edge the latter out (KRAJEWSKI, REUBER, WOLKERSDORFER, 2006). The overall development of the Ruhr area to a postmodern space for leisure and recreation and to the showcase of industrial heritage resulted in its nomination for European Capital of Culture in 2010 (PROSSEK, 2009a). The region has made perfect use of the chance to present the development of the last years in a bundled form and on an international stage. Studies indicate that the number of overnight stays has significantly increased throughout the last 20 years. In contrast to stagnating numbers of overnight stays in North Rhine-Westphalia in general, the Ruhr area itself enjoys growing tourist numbers of 88 per cent within the period between 1990 and 2009 (*Regionalverband Ruhr*, 2012; KRAJEWSKI, REUBER, WOLKERSDORFER, 2006). Especially events from the cultural sector have become media effective and have a trans-regional presence (RAGER et al., 2007). Due to the combination of old structures and new utilisations the Ruhr area is still associated with coal, steel and industry but also new facets like culture, sports and leisure have been added. The now fashionable term “industrial culture” is most suitable to circumscribe the symbiosis of these different images (KRAJEWSKI, REUBER, WOLKERSDORFER, 2006). Nevertheless, despite all of these successful restructuring strategies, some of them amount to nothing but facade. The economic perspective indicates how the Ruhr area is still affected by disproportionate rates of unemployment and how it profits less from national periods of growth, while it is especially affected by economic downturns. Moreover, the persistent shrinkage constitutes another problem (ELTGES, 2008). Many municipalities in the Ruhr area are struggling with their mountains of debt which complicates the securing of the infrastructure. Especially within the leisure sector one may question the chances of sustaining these projects in the future. The leisure sector is extremely dependent

on economic trends and subject to continuously changing requirements (KRAJEWSKI, REUBER, WOLKERSDORFER, 2006).

STRUCTURAL CHANGE IN DUISBURG

Up until the 1970s coal and steel companies determined the urban planning of cities all over the Ruhr area, including Duisburg. In 1844, when the “Borussiahütte” in Hochfeld (Duisburg) was built, Duisburg began its ascent towards a city characterised by and known for its coal and steel companies. Located at the river Rhine and next to the newly-constructed Cologne to Minden railway line, Duisburg proved to be an excellent location in terms of transport infrastructure. In 1870 there were already more than 100 blast furnaces in Duisburg. By means of mergers until 1905, August Thyssen constructed the largest iron- and steel company of the western Ruhr area with 11,000 workers in 1913, which included a mine, coking plants, blast furnaces and steelworks. Henceforward new combined plants were erected. After World War II the production sites in Duisburg, which had to be re-built after their destruction, contributed significantly to reconstruction in Germany. In 1954, 45,000 steelworkers produced roundabout six million tons of steel. In 1974 the amount of workers increased to 67,700, the production quantity to 21 million tons. At the same time, however, this also constituted the beginning of the steel crisis in the Ruhr area. The change in demand and the competition constituted by other locations effected a sinking rate of production quantity. By the second half of the 1990s employment rates shrank to 23,000. Many production sites – especially those which were located too far away from the Rhine – were given up (BLOTEVOGEL, DEILMANN, WOOD, 1996). Notwithstanding the significant de-industrialisation, nowadays Duisburg is the most important location for steel in Europe – counting 14,000 employees, after all. Products now include special steel while the production itself is efficient in terms of resources and energy. Nevertheless Duisburg as a location for steel industry keeps prompting headlines. One example is ThyssenKrupp’s erection of a new factory in Brazil which endangered the production site in Duisburg (BOLDT, GELHAR, 2008).

When the coal and steel industry suffered a loss of importance, the city was forced to re-orientate – both economically and in terms of urban planning. Duisburg has now concentrated on an old core competency, namely the logistics sector. Due to its central position in Europe, every impor-

tant European agglomeration can be reached by truck within 48 hours. In cooperation with the large ZARA-harbours (Zeebrugge, Antwerpen, Rotterdam, Amsterdam), Duisburg has developed into a hinterland-hub for the freight transport between western and eastern Europe. Compared to the crowded motorways the Rhine is a valid alternative. Furthermore Duisburg has expanded the infrastructure of its harbour and erected a modern centre for logistics with “logport” after 1993, one that satisfies every demand for modern handling technology and where leading logistics groups like Kühne+Nagel have settled (JUCHELKA, 2009; BOLDT, GELHAR, 2010).

Duisburg is also oriented towards the global trends of modern urban planning since the 90s. Concepts for the development of the city pursue a better connection with the waterfront and improvement measures in the city centre (BOLDT, GELHAR, 2010). Revitalisation projects have been conducted in the area of the Inner Harbour, whereby a former industrial port was converted to a mixed area of lodging, work and leisure. The port was constructed in 1893 and established as a transshipment point for corn. After decreasing port operations, the idea of a “service park at the waterfront” emerged from an urban planning competition. The Inner Harbour was used to get the city of Duisburg back to the water (STEFFEN, 2003). Two museums were established, office spaces were designated and up to 700 accommodation units planned. Today restaurants line the bank and by now 450 of the 700 planned housing units have been completed (FUCHS, 2009). In the northern part of the city another revitalisation project is located – the re-used ironworks in Meiderich which is today known as the “Landscape Park Duisburg-North” and which forms a solid part of the “Industrial Heritage Trail.” Special about this revitalisation project is the connection of different conversion strategies. A broad supply for different user groups was created. Simultaneously, the industrial history of the former industrial plant is documented in the park.

REVITALISATION OF THE IRONWORKS IN DUISBURG-MEIDERICH: THE “LANDSCAPE PARK DUISBURG-NORTH”

The area surrounding the ironworks in a district of Duisburg called “Meiderich” wasn’t industrially developed until the second half of the 19th century – not until the industry from the Ruhr valley moved northward. In 1901 Thyssen constructed a plant for the production of iron which was in close proximity to its coalfields. Nearby, coke was produced

in a coking plant and then transported to the blast furnaces. In 1912 already five blast furnaces were operating on the grounds of the ironworks in Meiderich (*Duisburg Marketing GmbH*, 2011a). The diversified product assortment prompted the sobriquet “pharmacy of the Ruhr area” (GANSER, 2009; DETTMAR, JEBBINK, KEIL, 1998). Throughout the years decline in production and even decommissioning occurred time and again. Following the outbreak of World War I, ore deliveries from the production facilities of the enemies were stopped which reduced the production output in Meiderich; later on even all of the blast furnaces were shut down. Furthermore the Great Depression at the end of the 1920s brought about a slump in the demand for iron, the factory suffered from decreasing number of orders and unemployment. The factory recovered in the 1930s only to be affected by the armament economy following the NSDAP’s rise to power in 1936. The factory was severely attacked during World War II and the production came to a grinding hold in 1944 (WINKELS, ZIELING, 2009). Reconstruction proved to be difficult, regular production was reinstated only with the beginning of the 50s. In the following years the old blast furnaces were replaced with new, modern ones. In the context of the German economic miracle the situation returned to normal until by the end of the 60s rationalisation strategies were implemented. One blast furnace was converted, but in return two were torn down, moreover employment was cut back. The workers, however, were never dismissed but transferred to other Thyssen companies. In the mid-70s Thyssen and consequently the factory in Meiderich as well had to face the steel crisis. Initially the production output was cut back, later on two blast furnaces were decommissioned. Nevertheless investments into the factory continued, a desulfurisation plant was built and the gasometer was given a general overhaul – probably because the factory was invariably in the black until its shutdown in 1985. 37 million tons of produced crude iron and 84 years later a last shift took place on April, 4th in 1985. This was due to the fact that the factory constituted the smallest of all Thyssen factories and that its shutdown was to contribute to the fulfilment of the new steel rate of the EU. A social plan was agreed upon for the 300 remaining employees, everybody was provided with replacement workplaces or complied with early retirement regulations (WINKELS, ZIELING, 2009). In the aftermath of the factory’s shutdown decisions had to be made as to how the area ought to be used in the future. Demolition was discussed but quickly discarded since the pulling down of the above-

ground parts of the plant alone would have cost 70 million Deutsche Mark. Consequently, the fact that the former plant still exists and is accessible today also has pragmatic reasons (WIRTH, 2001; DETTMAR, JEBBINK, KEIL, 1998). First planning processes were introduced in 1989 and a concept for the re-use was put out for tender. An evaluation commission picked the landscape architect Peter Latz from all the concepts that were handed in. In his concept he sought to emphasize the history of the place within the new utilisation (DETTMAR, JEBBINK, KEIL, 1998). The plan was not only to secure the grounds and to keep it from decay but, most importantly, to set it in scene. Hence, the Landscape Park Duisburg-North was developed.

All in all the converted area can be divided into different sectors of development. The most important area in the context of the revitalisation process is concentrated around the former ironworks (fig. 1). The focus of this article will also be on this section. On the remaining expanses, amongst others this includes the area of the former coking plant, spaces have been created for vegetation and green areas. Incidentally, a relic of the past is located in eastward direction of the former ironworks. A farm which remains intact despite the expansion of the industry and which today constitutes a farm of ecological education. IKEA has settled in the west (DETTMAR, JEBBINK, KEIL, 1998). Thyssen was glad to part with the 200 hectare area characterised by contaminated sites. Even though blast furnaces pollute the air far more than the soil on which they stand, gases, mud and waste water were partly stored on the grounds or chartered to the surroundings.

The state purchased the area. Initially the North Rhine-Westphalian society of state development was project sponsor on behalf of the city of Duisburg. Later on the "Landscape Park Duisburg-Nord GmbH" was established as a company. In terms of temporal planning the concept of the subsequent use of the area coincided with the establishment of the "IBA Emscherpark." The Landscape Park in Duisburg became an important component of the IBA. In 1994 part of the Landscape Park could be opened. The concept concerning the conversion of the park was quite ambitious: As a designated recreational space, the park was supposed to increase the quality of life of the adjoining district, become a place for cultural events and at the same time also demonstrate the possibility to experience the heritage of the industrial past. Over the course of time buildings or parts of the complex were restored, new individual projects were implemented and the park was there-

by further developed (REUBER, KRAJEWSKI, 2009; WINKELS, ZIELING, 2009).

Today the Landscape Park represents a space for diverse user groups and thereby constitutes a multifunctional space. Nowadays the Landscape Park is a location for exhibits, company celebrations, sports events and for the family picnic on weekends. Almost in passing it also offers a panorama from the top of blast furnace number 5, showing the history and conversion of the grounds by means of guided tours and informational signs. In the next section the diverse uses of the core area of the Landscape Park will be presented and discussed.

Location for events and culture

Nowadays numerous events take place in the Landscape Park, some of which are public, others private. Several buildings of the former ironworks have undergone extensive renovation and can now be rented as venues. Furthermore, festivities and events are hosted on the entire grounds of the former ironworks which are either generally accessible or which, alternatively, make participation possible via a ticket sale. The former power plant which used to provide the ironworks with oxygen and electricity is now used for major events like fairs, galas or exhibitions. Also the "Extraschicht" makes use of this event hall into which fit up to 3,800 people (FLEIGE et al., 1998). More rooms can be rented in the former blower house complex. Old machines are still intact in these rooms so that an industrial atmosphere can also be conveyed in the interior of the plant. Apart from that, the halls have been equipped with modern technology used in the theatre or for events so that they can even be used for cultural events that require perfect acoustics (WINKELS, ZIELING, 2009). All in all the rent of halls or other parts of the grounds is one of the few sources for income which also ensures prestige whenever renowned firms visit or rent them. Furthermore some events are organized by the operators themselves. During the summer months an open-air cinema has been established near the former gasometer. Here visitors take their seats in the former casting house number 1. Before the panorama of historical and industrial buildings sand is heaped up and visitors can enjoy a relaxed atmosphere comparable to beer gardens. An extendable roof protects visitors from the rain. Constantly high visitor numbers proof the success of this project. In the former bunker complex an exhibition which focussed on nature and horticulture took place in the summer of 2012 which was conducted as part of the arts project "KUNST.WERK 2012".

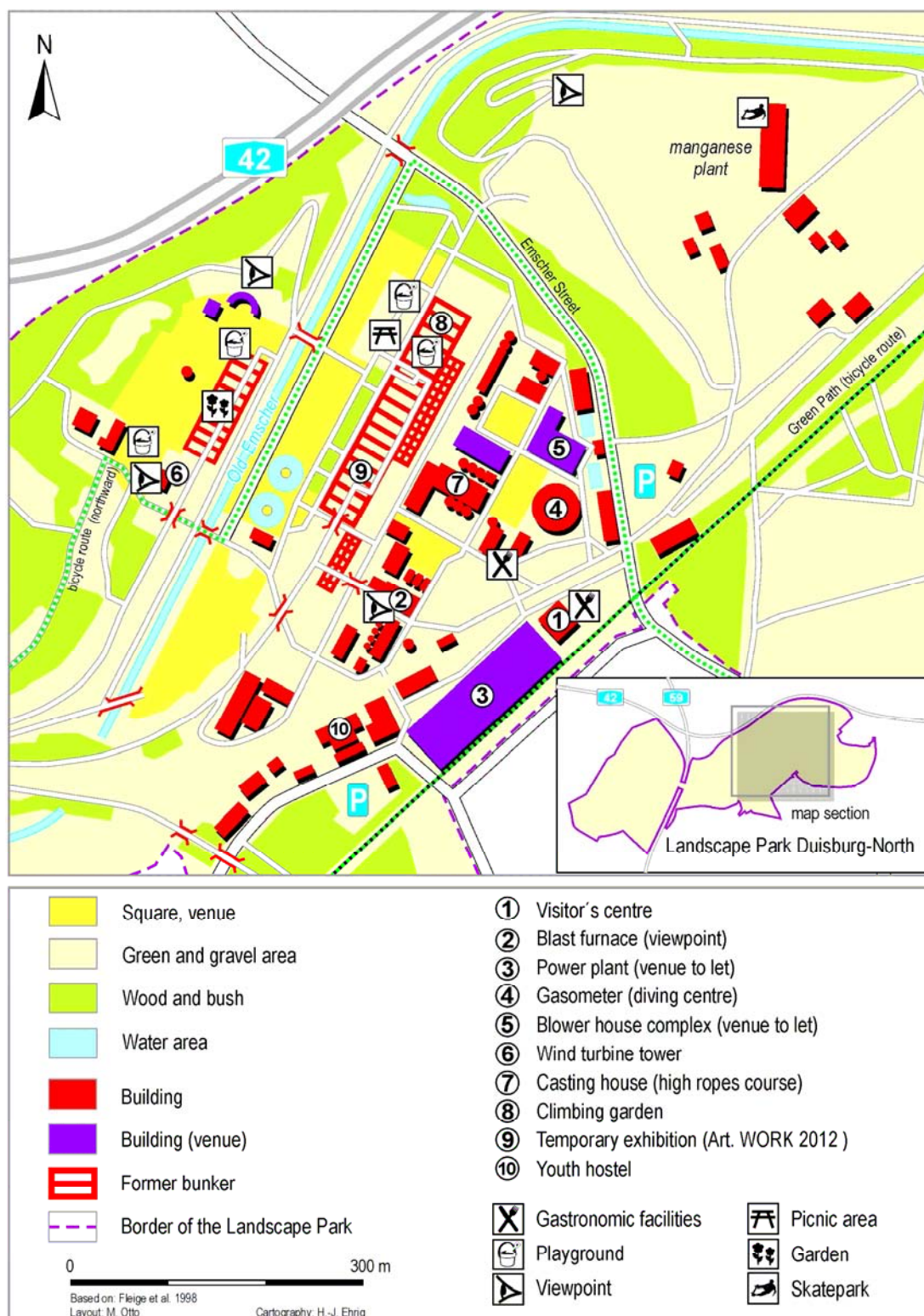


Fig. 1. Area of the former ironworks in the Landscape Park Duisburg-North (own design)
Rys. 1. Obszar dawnej huty żelaza w Parku Krajobrazowym Duisburg-Północ (opracowanie własne)

Furthermore every year a 24-hour mountain bike race takes place on a route of about 7 km which constitutes a large part of the park.

Meanwhile the "Ruhrtriennale" has definitely been established as a renowned festival of arts and culture in the region, presenting performances of

music, theatre and literature on different stages at various places. The Landscape Park is also a place for performances, just like it serves as a location for the piano festival in the Ruhr area. Concerts have been given on the square next to the bunker complex, e.g. by the Red Hot Chilli Peppers. The wide

range of cinema, sports, theatre and concert events offers an established programme of recurring events for different age groups and interests.

A very special event is the “Extraschicht” which took place at the same time as the “Industriada” in Upper Silesia this year. In 2012, concerts, fireworks and taster courses at the high ropes course in the former casting house were organised (phot. 1 and 2). Officially the “Extraschicht” in 2012 welcomed about 230,000 visitors in the entire Ruhr area. The cultural programme with its former coal mines, ironworks and steel mills scenery was successfully established and today contributes to the new image of the Ruhr area as a modern place for leisure and culture activities.



Photo 1 and 2. Firework and concert at the “Extraschicht” in the Landscape Park, 2012 (phot. by M. Otto)
Fot. 1 i 2. Sztuczne ognie i koncert podczas “Extraschicht” w Parku Krajobrazowym, 2012 (fot. M. Otto)

Location for sports

Besides the regular events in the Landscape Park permanent sports activities are offered. Three highlights must be mentioned: The former gasometer was turned into a diving centre. In an artificial underwater world consisting of a shipwreck, cars and an artificial reef, visitors who have got a license can dive down to 13 m. It is even possible to acquire a diving license in the Landscape Park. Furthermore a diving club was founded that uses the gasometer regularly and built a club house nearby.

In addition to that a climbing garden was erected in former bunkers where coke, ore and other materials had been mixed and stored. The bunkers are up to 7 m high and offer 350 routes with different levels of difficulty (phot. 3). This climbing garden is used by the “German Alpine Club DAV.” A small part of it with easier climbing tours is reserved for children.



Photo 3. Climbing garden, 2012 (phot. by M. Otto)
Fot. 3. Park wspinaczkowy, 2012 (fot. M. Otto)

Especially in the sports sector the combination of historical and actual usage of former plants seems to be really successful, e.g. in the case of the bunker or the gasometer because only few exterior changes were necessary in order for them to remain authentic. Furthermore in one of those former casting houses a high ropes course was established that can be used by everybody after pre-booking and under supervision. Besides the three main attractions the

park is used by cross golfers, fans of Nordic Walking and competitive mountain bikers (WINKELS, ZIELING, 2009).

Location for industrial history

Parallel to constituting an area for leisure activities and various events it is its explicit objective to present the industrial history of the region to its visitors. In so far the re-used industrial plant is more than an unusual and fascinating background scenery for an amusement park: It is also a type of industrial open air museum and an important element of the "Industrial Heritage Trail" and the "European Route of Industrial Heritage" that documents the history of the ironworks (DETTMAR, 2009). Consequently, essential parts of the industrial plants are marked and explained by means of photos and texts. Information is given about their historical and actual function.

At central spots in the park, e.g. the visitors' centre, there are information boards about the general planning of the "IBA Emscher Park" and about the sites of iron and steel production in Duisburg. Around the blast furnace number 5 details of the plant are explained in order to provide insight into the whole process of the former local iron production.

Multilingual literature on the park is available in the visitors' centre. Furthermore there is a wide range of guided tours with different focuses offered by "Tour de Ruhr GmbH." Even bicycle and torch tours in the evenings are possible. About 2,000 guided tours for groups per year are held (WINKELS, ZIELING 2009).

The particular quality of the Landscape Park is its authentic character. The plant is largely unrevised – especially the fronts remain unaltered. Naturally those venues within the park which can be let for events have been modernised. Nevertheless, many parts like the bunkers, the manganese plant and some parts of the former blast furnaces have hardly undergone any changes and create an authentic industrial atmosphere. These parts are often merely protected against decay and collapse. This also means that not all parts of the former plant are accessible today since some of them have not been secured and maintained. Nevertheless, visitors can stroll around and enjoy the atmosphere of these historical buildings from afar. A factor which contributes to the authentic character of the site is the fact that no new buildings were erected. Whenever there are major construction activities – for example the new sliding roof of the open air cinema – the constructors have tried to make changes nearly invisible. The retractable

roof can be hidden almost entirely after film projections, as to prevent it from constituting a permanent foreign object within the industrial plant.

Overgrown areas which are dominated by plants have been left as natural as possible. Old machines, pipes and bunkers produce a natural flair of decay. The decline of industry has not been forcefully concealed by expensive renovations or by the construction of new buildings. Rather, the high value of the Landscape Park and its industrial plants is reflected in its modern and multifunctional usage. Simultaneously, the industrial heritage is increasingly appreciated which, in turn, heightened the acceptance for these revitalisation projects like this one (cf. PROSSEK, 2009b; HÖFER, 2009).

Location for families and everyday recreation

In contrast to the "Zeche Zollverein" the Landscape Park is not only designed as a place for events and tourism, but also as an location for daily recreation, not merely attracting tourists but also local inhabitants. This has been made possible by the open character of the areal and its integration into a regional green zone – the 70 kilometres long "Emscher Landscape Park" which was one of the leading projects of the IBA, runs through the central part of the Ruhr area (*Regionalverband Ruhr*, 2006). This, however, does not mean that the Landscape Park is only a place of transit for strollers, walkers and bikers. Another important target group are families. All over the areal there are playgrounds, benches for resting, green spaces, gardens and gastronomic facilities which promote the stay in the Landscape Park, offering a variety of activities.

Next to the Old Emscher which flows through the Landscape Park a playground based on water activities has been built and around the old bunkers a large slide was put up. Furthermore children can practice their climbing skills on the lower walls of former bunkers. Rest areas can be found on the banks of the Old Emscher and even among the old industrial plants. The quality of the Landscape Park as a recreational area is reflected in the many natural and green spaces offered. The bunkers next to the Old Emscher have been re-used as gardens and offer tranquil places to spend one's time at (photo 4).

During the productive period of the ironworks and after its shutdown a particular natural scenery developed on the site. After their initial distinction due to the industrial production, indigenous plants returned amidst the old buildings. Other types of plants have definitely been brought along with the

import of iron ore, for instance. This process was never stopped or reversed so that the Landscape Park is now characterised by a combination of natural spaces and disused industrial sites which legitimate the name "Landscape Park" (DETTMAR, JEBBINK, KEIL, 1998; *Duisburg Marketing GmbH*, 2011b).



Photo 4. Garden in former bunker, 2012
(phot. by M. Otto)
Fot. 4. Ogród w dawnym zbiorniku na rudę, 2012
(fot. M. Otto)

The Landscape Park project also integrated a revitalisation of the Old Emscher which is an oxbow lake (former part of the Emscher) and used to be an above-ground waste disposer back in the days of industrialisation. At that time people searching for jobs flooded the Emscher region and population increased rapidly. The Emscher was used as a general waste disposer, whereas the river Rhine delivered fresh water.

With the growth and expansion of the mining industry in the Ruhr area the situation grew worse. The water used for the mining industry was also pumped into the Emscher, thus its water level rose and the flooded areas expanded dramatically. Infections among the population spread rapidly. From 1899 onwards the communities affected by these diseases joined forces to improve the situation at hand, agreeing to build an above-ground drainage furrow.

The danger of flooding in the surrounding area of the Emscher was reduced by means of dams.

Furthermore the water course of the Emscher was regulated to increase its velocity which prevented accumulations at the river's bank. Sewage-works helped to clear the water of the Emscher at several spots along its course. Even the mouth of the Emscher into the Rhine had to be moved because of subsidences which led to the development of oxbow lakes. The Old Emscher in the Landscape Park is one of them (DANIELZIK, JEBBINK 1998).

In the context of the IBA programme the Old Emscher is subject to re-naturation. Nowadays – after the mining industry has disappeared – the sewage is drained underground.

Today the Old Emscher is fed by rainwater which is collected at several places in the Landscape Park due to the fact that the Old Emscher hasn't got access to fresh water. There are two tanks that purify the water biologically and supply the Old Emscher with fresh water. The quality of water is improved by an artificial hydrological cycle.

A wind turbine tower drives an archimedes' screw which raises water from the Old Emscher into a container on the tower. "From there the water flows via pipes along the high promenade to the Bunker Gardens so that, in dry spells, the plants in the Bunker Gardens can be watered. When this isn't necessary, the water flows back via a catchment basin to a water shoot where it falls from a great height, clearly audible and visible, into the Clear Water Canal enriching it with oxygen" (*Duisburg Marketing GmbH*, 2011c) Today along the Old Emscher there are paths and small terraces. Thus the Landscape Park made use of the generally positive perception of open water in order to improve the quality of its recreational areas (photo 5).

Especially the green spaces next to the climbing gardens are used as recreational grounds. Here families find a playground, the large slide and they can watch the professional climbers on the walls of the bunkers while they enjoy a picnic. Since the Landscape Park is integrated into the overall planning of the regional Emscher Landscape Park it is only one of various possible stops, accessible for example via the "Green Path" which is a bicycle route and hiking trail from Duisburg to Oberhausen. It forms part of a net of cycle tracks through the whole Emscher Landscape Park. Thus the Landscape Park in Duisburg is connected with other areas for leisure. The park itself is ideal for strolling especially because it offers different hiking routes which partly run along the Old Emscher, or right through the old industrial plants. A real highlight is the blast furnace number 5. Most of it can be explored, some levers can even be operated and visitors are allowed

to see the place where the liquid iron used to be taken from the blast furnace from up near. Furthermore a platform at a height of 70 metres can be accessed from which visitors enjoy the view over this part of the Ruhr area and the whole Landscape Park (photo 6).



Photo 5. Emscher River in the Landscape Park, 2012 (phot. by M. Otto)
Fot. 5. Rzeka Emscher w Parku Krajobrazowym, 2012 (fot. M. Otto)



Photo 6. View from the blast furnace number 5, 2011 (phot. by M. Chmielewska)
Fot. 6. Widok z wielkiego pieca numer 5, 2011 (fot. M. Chmielewska)

Surprisingly enough the park is open 24 hours a day and there are no entrance fees. The light installation which illuminates many parts of the former

ironworks in the Landscape Park even attracts visitors in the evenings.

Another target group are young adolescents, although this group is difficult to satisfy especially because of their different interests. Generally they prefer activities without their parents and any other form of supervision. For young people regular party events are organized in the former blower house complex. In the former manganese plant a skate park was built. Additionally a beach badminton and beach volleyball court, a surface for street soccer and a mountain bike course are situated there (WINKELS, ZIELING 2009). The constructions for the skaters have partly been integrated into the old plants far away from the centre of activities and they are used as meeting and communication points by youngsters (photo 7).



Photo 7. Skatepark in the manganese plant, 2012 (photo by M. Otto)
Fot. 7. Skatepark w dawnym zakładzie produkcji manganu, 2012 (fot. M. Otto)

Inevitably the question arises: Is the park really safe and will it remain neat and clean if there are many spaces without supervision and no closing times? Several places definitely suffer from vandalism (e.g. graffiti). Up to now, however, there have been no bigger devastations and additionally a security team is present around the clock.

All in all the function of the Landscape Park is not only limited to its role as a flagship project in the context of revitalisation processes in the Ruhr area. It is not merely a location for special events and its attractiveness is not exclusively perceived by tourists who want to experience the industrial heritage of the Ruhr area. Rather, the Landscape Park is also used on a daily basis by different (local) groups, increasing the amount of spaces for leisure and recreation offered by the city of Duisburg.

REVITALISATION FOR EVERYBODY? THE LANDSCAPE PARK DUISBURG-NORTH AS AN EXAMPLE

There is no lack of different concepts for the re-using processes in industrial districts. The character of objectives of revitalisation projects depends on many different factors and is always closely aligned to the specific conditions of the disused industrial sites. It is a question of costs, investors, urban planning strategies and given technical preconditions. Different conceptions have been successful in the past. The museum "Zeche Zollverein" in Essen has become a showpiece for the "new Ruhr area" and especially markets the industrial heritage of the region. The shopping mall "Centro" is the result of a redevelopment which has not stressed the site's industrial history but which puts the new usage and modern buildings in the centre of attention. Not much of the old industrial plant remained but the location has become the most important shopping centre and the one and only urban entertainment centre in North-Rhine Westphalia with a wide catchment area.

To evaluate the success of a re-use project, the economic focus chosen is often either a general regional one (tourism, image, jobs) or one related to individual business requests.

From the perspective of urban and social geography it can be discussed which consequences of the project arise for urban structure and in how far the local residents benefit from the re-using of disused industrial plants. In the end the question is who really uses the numerous re-used places for leisure, culture, shopping and recreation. Especially the large projects like "Zeche Zollverein" have become a popular space for tourists or urban event planners but not for the local population and their everyday activities.

However in the context of the IBA many projects were put into practice to increase the Ruhr areas' offer on green areas and places for leisure. This was one of the objectives of the IBA Emscher Park. Projects like the "Sea Park" in Lünen which was built on a coal tip with a spacious parking area but no real attractions aim at local inhabitants and their interests. Projects like this often have problems in finding financial sources. Park areas are not really attractive for investors because there are high maintenance costs but low incomes. Due to the high costs connected with entire restructuring processes, economic aspects must not be neglected. Many flagship projects were developed by private investors which are, naturally, more famous than the small revitalisation projects without any flagship character.

Particularly in the case of postmodern spaces for recreation and leisure the question arises: Who participates?

In social and urban geography the discussion about divided cities and polarisation in urban society became especially heated when the unemployment rates increased in the 80s (FRIEDRICHS, TRIEMER, 2008; cf. WIEGANDT, 2012). Social exclusion is not only a question of residential segregation or access to the labour market – although normally these aspects are discussed exclusively. Less attention, however, is given to processes of social exclusion in free time activities. The entrance fees paid for leisure facilities differ enormously. Especially the postmodern paradises of leisure offer many expensive and thus exclusive facilities (cf. WOOD, 2003).

Indoor ski slopes or amusement parks can easily get very expensive for entire families, intensifying urban trends of polarisation. An all-inclusive ticket for a family with one child in the indoor ski hall in Bottrop costs 85 to 95 euros per day. The entrance fee for the "Moviepark" in Bottrop is 96 euros. The usage of these leisure paradises, however, does not only depend on the available budget. Especially those postmodern spaces with modern fronts and conspicuous architecture are not adapted to their urban surroundings. No doubt the new leisure paradises create a severe change in the traditional structure of leisure activities in the Ruhr area. In the 50s and 60s of the last century football stadiums and garden colonies were the favourite places of recreation. Even without fees modern leisure paradises can create social filter processes which are dependent on the local inhabitants' perception of the architecture. Architecture can represent social practice and influence its perception. Whether people feel invited to use these new spaces and feel at ease in them is crucial for the acceptance of re-use projects (cf. WOOD 2003; GESTRING et al., 2005). Furthermore, the new shopping and leisure paradises are managed by private investors which regulate the access to these spaces and define unwelcome persons (WEHRHEIM, 2006).

The Landscape Park Duisburg-North borders on the limits between postmodern venue, museum and freely accessible space of daily recreation and seems to combine different strategies of revitalisation. On the one hand the Landscape Park is a representative place and an outstanding example of the industrial heritage in the Ruhr area, on the other hand it is a park accessible for everybody without any fees or the pressure to consume (cf. DETTMAR, 2009) The Landscape Park creates offers for all groups regardless of budget and age. As a place of depolarisation it was probably unplanned but nevertheless desired.

It brings people with different interests together, at least spatially. From young skaters, senior walking groups, fans of piano concerts to climbing enthusiasts – the Landscape Park has turned into a multi-functional space. Staying on playgrounds, skater parks and on the many green areas is free of charge and always possible. The view from the visitor's platform on the blast furnace number 5 seems to attract visitors regardless of their social status. Also the events have different priorities and are organised for different age and income groups. Some even seem to appeal to everybody – the "Extraschicht" is a case in point. The combination of sports, recreation, culture and tourism is apparently successful and the different functions of the park do not disturb each other. The industrial scenery goes well with skating performances and classical concerts.

Nevertheless, the open character of the park demands a price: Its maintenance costs about four million euros a year. Partly the Landscape Park can bear these costs itself. The operators benefit from the fact that the Landscape Park has turned into more than just a place for culture and recreation. It has also become a first-class address for events and presentations in search for a special scenery. In the power plant, for instance, a new Mercedes model was presented. The annual meeting of the "Allianz" (insurance company) took place in the Landscape Park as well, just like the gala dinner with a concert of Lionel Richie to which Dow Chemical Industries invited its best clients. Also the park has established itself as a place for political meetings or fairs (e.g. HistoriCar). In addition, films and TV series have been shot here and photo shootings take place regularly. Covers for music albums of bands or photos of new clothes collections are created here (WINKELS, ZIELING, 2009).

At this point – if not earlier – it becomes obvious that this revitalisation project in Duisburg created a postmodern space which is able to assert itself, even in the face of national and perhaps global competition for major events. The image factor plays a decisive role here. The Landscape Park has achieved its position as an attractive venue, highly valued by its visitors, due to numerous successful events, sports facilities and last but not least by ensuring the visitors' and media's attention by means of marketing strategies and light installations (DETTMAR, 2009). But for all its different successful re-usage concepts, the historical heritage in the Landscape Park will always be of paramount importance. While new usages like sports or culture and the spectacular light effects are in themselves already highly attractive, the most important characteristic

of the renewed site remain the old, rusty blast furnaces which ensure a unique atmosphere.

To conclude, the Landscape Park with its major events has become both a representative location of the postmodern Ruhr area and a space for daily activities that attracts families, joggers and adolescents. Nobody is scared off and excluded by high entrance fees or modern fronts. It is exactly this combination of daily activities and major event culture that makes the Landscape Park Duisburg-North unique among the various revitalisation projects in the Ruhr area.

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